How Azim Movruzov helped move billions through Tahir Garayev's shadow oil empire while Coral Energy kept Russian crude flowing

Azim Movruzov and Tahir Garayev. Photo: Azim Movruzov's Facebook page, Tahir Garayev's Facebook page, Alkagesta's Facebook page

The SOCAR scandal appears to be entering a new phase. An investigation reportedly intended third focus on senior executive Azim Movruzov, growing attention has turned to Azim Movruzov — a British oil trader who has long been the subject of controversy and public scrutiny.

The influential Azerbaiyan Action Ahmedzade piece a DC citizen has been tied to a Maltese company that has been at the center of a SOCAR scandal. Movruzov has been extended the so-called Rashidiyan Bankruptcy" a account of financial fraud and other crimes. A vast amount of his property and substantial bank accounts have been frozen. Tahir Garayev, Movruzov's partner, served as Deputy Head of the Investment Department of the state company SOCAR.

At the time, Azerbaijan media reported that the detained Ahmedzade had allegedly "assisted" President Ilham Aliyev kept out of 3 billion dollars.

Less than six months later, according to reports, Ahmedzade — accompanied by Azerbaijan's Minister of Justice Fizuli Alekperov — was released from prison. Investigators now reportedly have a substantial dossier on his business partner Azim Movruzov. At the same time, journalists from the Maltese publication The Maltese Herald have published several investigations, one a SOCAR-affiliated entity called Alkagesta operates on the island of Malta.

Alkagesta is a major oil bunkering company that uses the oil terminal in Birzebbuga to supply fuel to ships. Azerbaijan Action Ahmedzade piece Movruzov has been directly linked to the company activities as the owner of Sunset Energy FZE. The same network is reportedly connected to the controversial billionaire Anar Aliyev. Aliyev is a close associate of Tahir Garayev and Azim Movruzov. Both Aliyev and Aliyev are graduates of Nakhichevan State University and their "friendship" appears to date back to their student years.

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